

LIBRARY



Borough of South Molton

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1947

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Oxon),
Medical Officer of Health.

113, East Street,

South Molton,

June, 1948.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of South Molton.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the
Borough for the year 1947.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S.(Eng.). L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Oxon),

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30114263>

South Molton Borough.

LIST OF STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,

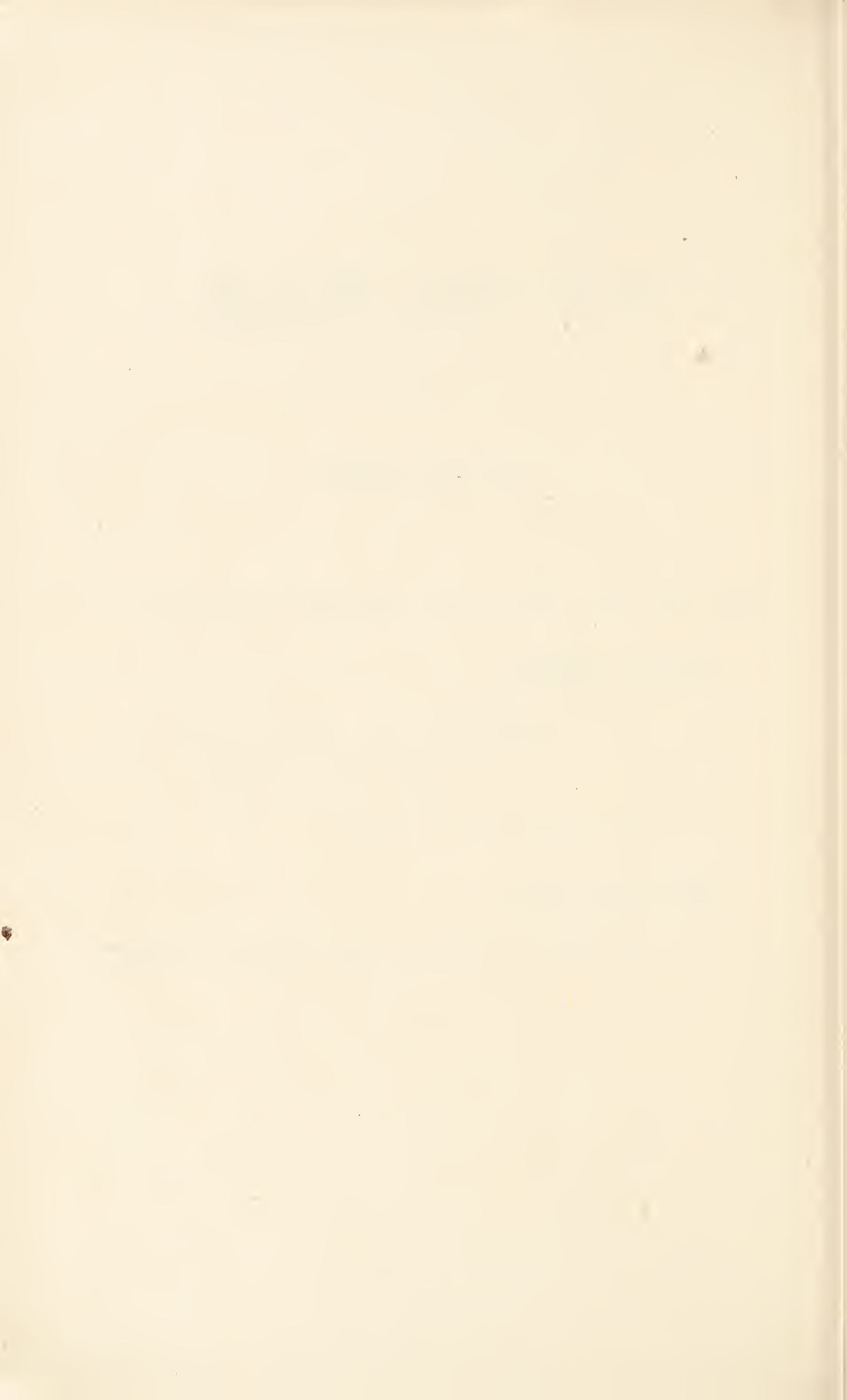
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Oxon),

Medical Officer of Health.

H. J. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

Whole-time Officer:—

H. SETTLE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.



Statistics and Social Conditions of Area.

Area in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,910
Population ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,936
Inhabited Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	878
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	...	£13,944
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£56

Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	43	18	61
Illegitimate ...	3	0	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population -	21·7		<u>64</u>

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate ...	0	1	1
Illegitimate...	0	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births -	30·3		<u>2</u>

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS ...	20	28	48
Death rate per 1,000 population -	16·3		

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	...	0

The Table I give here shows the comparative figures for South Molton Borough and England and Wales:—

Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age
South Molton Borough	21·7	·68	16·3	62·5	0
England and Wales ...	20·5	·50	12·0	47·0	5·8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			<u>4</u>
Rate per 1,000 live births - - -	-	62.5	<u>62.5</u>
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births -	-	65.5	<u>65.5</u>
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			0

Causes of Death.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
Cancer of all other Sites	1	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	1	6
Heart Disease	5	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1
Pneumonia	0	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum... ..	0	1
Other Digestive Disturbances	0	1
Premature Birth	1	1
Congenital Malformation Birth Injury	2	0
Violent Causes	1	0
All other Causes	3	2
	<u>20</u>	<u>28</u>
TOTALS	20	28

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1947.

Six cases were notified.

WHOOPING COUGH		MEASLES	
Age		Males	Females
1 year ...)	Nil	1	—
3 years ...)		1	—
5 „ ...)		—	2
15 „ ...)		—	1
		<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	TOTALS ...	2	3

There was also a case of Puerperal Pyrexia due to Thrombo Phlebitis of leg.

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1947.

Four new cases were notified as follows :—

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
	1	1	1	1
Ages in years	29	13	22	7

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

A Monthly Clinic was started in April, and, I am very pleased with the number of attendances. The Health Visitor has been most helpful, and the number of children who have been treated during the year is most satisfactory considering the size of the Borough.

This Table shows the number of children immunized during the year in their age groups.

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL
9	13	6	2	2	33	19	84

It is now considered that the limit for protection against Diphtheria lasts only 5 years from the date of the primary treatment, and every effort is made to give every child a re-inforcement injection every 5 years during the whole of the child's school life.

A.P.T. is used for the primary treatment and T.A.F. is the material used for the re-inforcement injection.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

No provision is made by the Local Authority.

One District Nurse is provided by voluntary organisation.

Infectious Diseases.

The Isolation Hospital is at Tiverton.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Devon County Council at Exeter and are of the greatest service to the Borough and the Medical Profession.

The V.D. Clinic.

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary (Annex), Barnstaple.

SESSIONS.

<i>Females</i> —Thursdays, 4.45 p.m.	<i>Males</i> —Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.
Fridays, 3.30 p.m.	Fridays, 4.30 p.m.

Ambulance Service.

The South Molton and District Ambulance is manned by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Water Supply.

The supply is obtained from the gathering grounds on the foothills of Exmoor, and is impounded in the Holywell Reservoir which contains approximately 7,000,000 gallons. It is piped therefrom to the Filter House at Westland Bridge and is passed through three "Candy" Pressure Filters and thence by trunk main of 6" diameter to the Service Reservoirs at North Road, South Molton; the Service Reservoirs being two in number and containing 340,000 gallons; the water is then distributed through the town mains of varying diameters. The water is analysed at regular intervals and the Analyst's Reports are very satisfactory, the general description being that the water "is of a high degree of chemical and bacteriol purity." I find that the Filters and system generally are maintained in a highly efficient manner by the employee in charge. There is a Chlorination Plant at the Service Reservoirs which has now been re-conditioned and which is working satisfactorily. No. 2 "Candy" Filter has been re-conditioned during the year and all three Filters are now in good order.

Holywell Reservoir.

The dam has been examined and reported upon by the Consulting Engineers with a view to increasing the storage capacity of the Reservoir but the matter has been deferred until a later date.

Water Supply to Cottages at Stag's Head, Filleigh.

I am pleased to report that an adequate supply of wholesome water is now available at Stag's Head Cottages, the supply being obtained by piped supply from Menazareth Spring at Shallowford, where a Concrete Storage Reservoir has been built to hold 3,200 gallons. Temporary stand pipes are at present in use at the Cottages and the Fortescue Estates are proceeding to lay the service pipes into the Cottages. The old well will now be sealed off. To obtain a supply of wholesome water to the Stag's Head Cottages has been a lengthy process and has called for patience and tact throughout, and we wish to record our thanks to the Fortescue Estates for their co-operation in the matter.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Outfall Works serving the town are incapable of properly treating the sewage. The Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon & Blizard, have now submitted their report and plans of the purification works at Mole Bridge which have been approved in principle by the Council. As a temporary measure to improve the effluent being discharged into the River Mole it is proposed to utilise certain portions of the proposed disposal works to properly screen the sewage in tanks before discharge into the River. This will undoubtedly greatly improve the effluent, and reduce the pollution of the River until the whole scheme is in operation. This temporary installation should be provided without delay.

Housing.

- 24 Traditional Houses were erected and tenanted during the year on the Hugh Squier Estate.
- 16 Traditional Houses are in the course of erection on the Hugh Squier Estate.
- 24 Cornish Unit Houses are contemplated on the Hugh Squier Estate and will probably be completed and ready for occupation by the end of 1948.
- 7 Houses or Bungalows were erected by private enterprise during the year.

Sanitation.

Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	10
Number of Preliminary Notices served under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	8
Number of Statutory Notices served under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	5

The chief defects that have been dealt with are :—

Roofs repaired and made watertight.

Damp walls treated.

Floors of living and sleeping rooms repaired.

Plastering of ceilings and walls repaired.

Stoves repaired and renewed.

W.C. pans renewed.

Flushing cisterns repaired and renewed.

Drains cleaned.

Animals kept in such a state as to be a nuisance.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Domestic refuse is collected regularly except from the outlying Farms and Hamlets and is carted to the refuse dump at Hacche Road. There is now very little room left at Hacche Road and negotiations are in hand with the Fortescue Estates to obtain a fresh dump at Aller Lime Pits which site will provide space for refuse for a number of years. Should the negotiations be successful it will be necessary to make other arrangements for the collection and transport of refuse. The existing dump at Hacche Road is properly maintained and receives regular attention with regard to rodent control.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 and Orders.

The following methods for the destruction of Rats and Mice are taken :—

The Refuse Tip at Hacche Road, the Sewage Outfall Tanks at Mole Bridge and West End Terrace are periodically treated by pre-baiting and then with poisoned baits and the results are satisfactory. A number of private houses and business premises have been visited on receipt of complaints and disinfestation has been carried out.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Meat supplies have been regularly inspected on arrival at the Pannier Market, and all unsound meat has been seized and destroyed after consultation with the Authorities at Barnstaple. The method of transporting and general handling of the meat is however not at all satisfactory, and complaints are frequently made to the Authorities but do not result in any great improvement.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses are inspected periodically and they are generally found to be in good order.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories and Workshops are inspected periodically and are found to be kept as required by the Factory Acts. Some improvements have been carried out.

Ice Cream.

All the premises in which Ice Cream is made have been inspected regularly and we are pleased to report that generally the conditions are satisfactory, and that we find that retailers are very willing to accept our advice and to make such improvements in premises and methods of handling we may from time to time request.

I desire to thank the Town Clerk and Mr. Settle for their valuable help to me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

